Jewellery park at Karwar

4986. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to establish jewellery parks at various locations, including Karwar in Karnataka, in Joint or Private Sector, to facilitate export of gold and jewellery production and to help the gem and jewellery units, which are basically cottage industries, to come under organised sector; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the proposal is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposals for financial assistance to Gold Jewellery Park in Indore, Madhya Pradesh and Gem and Jewellery Park at Karwar in Karnataka were considered. An amount of Rs. 1.89 Crore was sanctioned under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme for Gold Jewellery Park in Indore. The proposal submitted by Government of Karnataka for estabishment of Gem and Jewellery Park at Karwar, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka was considered by the Government and found not viable.

Service charges on unregistered tobacco growers

4987. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are imposing a differential penalty of Rs. 2.00 per kg. plus 20 per cent service charges in case of unregistered growers in respect of excess tobacco crop;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount of penalty collected thus from each of the State/Union Territory during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has conveyed the feelings of its tobacco growers that the penalty is on the higher side and has requested for relaxation of the rate of penalty and service charges; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Government had imposed a penalty of Rs. 2/- per kilogram plus 15% service charges on the unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced by the unregistered growers of Karnataka in the 2001 crop season. The penalty imposed on the